

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION ARA-01

RELEASED IN PART  
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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01
	SR-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	FMP-01

/101W

-----OF8CA7 142334Z /38

P 142332Z FEB 92  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8407

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] DO NOT FORESEE SOCIAL  
- EXPLOSION SOON

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REF: 91 STATE 268439

1. [REDACTED] ON FEBRUARY 14  
TOLD POLOFF THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES DO NOT BELIEVE  
THERE WILL BE A SOCIAL EXPLOSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.  
[REDACTED] ARE SERVING IN A NUMBER OF  
VENEZUELAN CITIES ([REDACTED] FOR EXAMPLE IS IN BARQUISIMETO  
WHICH WAS VERY QUIET DURING THE COUP), MOSTLY IN SLUM  
AREAS.

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2. [REDACTED] THAT THE POLICE ARE MORE VISIBLE IN POOR  
NEIGHBORHOODS (RANCHOS), BUT THAT THEY HAVE NOT ABUSED  
THE POPULATION. (NOTE: REPRESSIVE POLICE SWEEPS WERE  
REPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT IN THE  
CARACAS NEIGHBORHOOD OF 23 DE ENERO. CIVILIAN SNIPERS  
WERE OBSERVED DURING THE COUP ATTEMPT SHOOTING AT LOYAL  
SOLDIERS.) [REDACTED] EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT, AS  
THE POLITICAL FALLOUT (FROM THE COUP ATTEMPT) BETWEEN  
THE MILITARY AND THE CIVILIANS CONTINUED, POLICE MIGHT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JAMES F COOPER  
DATE/CASE ID: 09 JUN 2009 200803772

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

3. [ ] SAID THAT "BARRIO"  
RESIDENTS SEE COMMANDER HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS, LEADER OF THE  
ATTEMPTED COUP, AS A VENEZUELAN OF MERIT ("UN  
VENEZUELANO DE VALOR"). SINCE SEEING THE COMMANDER,  
THE POOR SEEM TO HAVE DEVELOPED A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.  
FOR THE FIRST TIME, [ ] THE POOR SEEM TO HAVE A  
CONCRETE IDEA OF THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP THEY COULD HAVE,  
AND THEY REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT CHAVEZ WOULD HAVE  
INSTITUTED A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. THE COUP HAS HAD AN  
IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL "WELTANSCHAUNG" OF THE POOR,  
BUT, [ ] IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PARTY POLITICAL  
MACHINES WILL NOT GET OUT THEIR VOTES IN THE UPCOMING  
ELECTION. PATRONAGE POLITICS, [ ] IS STILL  
DOMINANT IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF  
POVERTY. [ ] THAT "ONLY IF SOMETHING  
EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENS WILL THE POOR COME DOWN FROM THE  
HILLS IN SUPPORT OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE THAT WILL AFFECT  
THEIR LIVES POSITIVELY." SKOL

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